

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 (ISO) W

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R 250657Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0857

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2394

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, ID

SUBJECT: MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

REF: JAKARTA 2253

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR BRIEFED ME FEBRUARY 24 ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH MUSLIM DISSIDENTS. HE ALSO PROVIDED ME WITH DOSSIER OF DOCUMENTS FROM JIDDA DISCUSSIONS AND LET ME READ COPY OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS WHICH HE HAND CARRIED TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO FEBRUARY 17. DOCUMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED DEPARTMENT UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

2. MELCHOR SAID THAT HE REAGRDDED HIS MEETINGS IN JAKARTA AS PRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, HE FOUND HIMSELF CAUGHT UP IN CERTAIN INTERNAL INDONESIAN POLITICS WHICH LEFT HIM A LITTLE EMBARRASSED.

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3. WHEN HE ARRIVED JAKARTA EVENING FEBRUARY 17, HE MET IMMEDIATELY FOR TWO HOURS WITH GENERAL YOGA, WHO TOLD HIM IN FAIRLY BLUNT TERMS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK HAD NO RPT NO RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN PHILIPPINE MUSLIM SECESSIONIST PROBLEM. YOGA MADE CLEAR THAT INDONESIA WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE, BUT THAT HE, YOGA, HAD SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT ROLE.

4. WHEN MELCHOR MET FOLLOWING DAY WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, LATTER CONFIRMED YOGA'S STATEMENT IN SOMEWHAT MORE SUBTLE WAY, AND WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FAROLAN SHOULD ALSO BE DEALT OF PICTURE. MELCHOR ASSUMES THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE CONTACT BY COURIER OR BY TRAVELLING EMISSARIES OPERATING BETWEEN JAKARAT AND MANILA.

5. SUHARTO CONFIRMED THAT INDONESIA WOULD CONTINUE ACTIVE, BUT QUIET ROLE IN ATTEMPTING BRING SECESSIONIST LEADERS INTO CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH MANILA. IN MEANTIME, HIS ADVICE TO MARCOS WAS TO USE MAXIMUM MILITARY FORCE TO CONVINCE THEM TO "NEGOTIATE WITH SINCERITY."

6. AS FOR AL TOHAMY, MELCHOR REPEATED HIS EXPRESSIONS OF DISTRUST FOR HIS MOTIVATIONS AND HIS CONCERN ABOUT HIS SLIPSHOD METHODS OF WORK. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT TOHAMY WOULD PROBABLY MAKE ANOTHER TRIP HERE EITHER IN MARCH OR APRIL, TO INDICATE CONTINUING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE INTEREST IN SUBJECT.

7. IN PREPARATION FOR ISLAMIC MEETING IN CAIRO, MELCHOR INFORMED ME THAT MARCOS HAS WRITTEN BHUTTO, WHO WILL PROSIDE, AND HAS SENT HIM COPIES OF THOSE DOCUMENTS HE HAS PROVIDE TO ME. HE ASSUMES THAT BHUTTO, WHO HAS HIS OWN SECESSIONIST PROBLEMS, WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO PHILIPPINE PROBLEM. HE ALSO HOPES, SINCE THE ARRIVAL HERE OF A NEW AND COMPETENT PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR, THAT THE PHILIPPINE POSITION WILL BE MORE OBJECTIVELY REPORTED TO ISLAMABAD.
SULLIVAN

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